

North Haven Open Space Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes*
October 27, 2015 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall / First Selectman's Office

Committee Members Present:

Steve Fitzgerald (Selectman Appt.) (Chairman)
Hugh Davis (Conservation) (Vice Chairman)
Patricia Brown (Board of Finance)
Mary Lou Stamp (Parks & Rec)
Cheryl Juniewicz (P&Z)
Theresa Ranciatto-Viele (Inland Wetlands)

Others Present:

Michael Freda (First Selectman)
Lynn Sadosky (Director of Public Works)
Laura Magaraci (Zoning Enforcement Officer)
Heidi Boettget (Land Trust)

1. The meeting was called to order by Steve Fitzgerald, Chairman who then described the efforts of the Committee over the previous five months to develop an open space parcel priority list. The list of ten properties was presented to First Selectman Michael Freda along with the narrative descriptions of the properties and a highlighted town map indicating each property location. Mr. Fitzgerald described his view of 'next steps' beginning with identifying a willing property owner/seller.
2. Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works described the State's grant funding process and its timeline. She noted that a successful application for grant money would require a 50% financial commitment from the Town. Hugh Davis, Member expressed his hope that the Town would commit the 50% cost to the acquisition of an open space parcel. Heidi Boettget of the Land Trust offered that the Land Trust may be in a position to contribute some assistance to the acquisition of a particular parcel that abuts any of their current their lands and she noted that the Land Trust was particularly interested in the 294 Spring Road parcel.
3. Selectman Freda began his comments by thanking the Committee for its good work and then noted that he has already had discussions with the property owners of 343 Clintonville Road and 55 Longview Drive, both of whom are intent on developing the properties from a residential standpoint. He explained that there is an ever present threat of property development of dense affordable housing that would put significant strain(s) on the Town's services. Selectman Freda then made known to the Committee his plan to attempt to acquire all of the parcels on the priority list by taking an approximate seven million dollar bonding proposal to

a Town referendum vote. He anticipated that the bonding proposal should be ready for March or April of 2016. In advance of this referendum vote, he noted the need for education efforts to educate the voters about the benefits of open space preservation. All in attendance at the meeting were in favor of Selectman Freda's proposal.

4. It was then decided that Selectman Freda and/or his office would start contacting the priority parcel owners to explore their willingness to work with the town on sale of their land for open space purposes.
5. It was then decided at the next regularly scheduled meeting in December that the Committee would discuss what could be done by the Committee in assisting the First Selectman in an open space preservation education campaign and/or the marketing of educational materials in support of the Bonding Proposal. It was also decided that the November meeting would be canceled.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Fitzgerald
Chair NHOSAC